

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 6, 2019

The Honorable Mark Green
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building, Suite 610
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20523-6100

Dear Administrator Green,

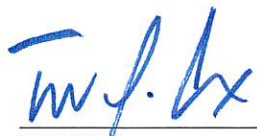
As Members of Congress committed to protecting the people of Nagorno Karabakh from the threat of landmines, we are deeply troubled again by the recent decision that USAID has made to halt all support for humanitarian landmine clearance in the traditional boundaries of the region at the end of 2019, as per your agency's letter of July 30, 2019. Such a move would leave the people of Nagorno Karabakh to live in fear of death or injury from landmines, with no local capacity in place to address this ongoing threat.

This development is also a reversal of the testimony you offered on April 9, 2019 during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing in which you stated to Congressman Brad Sherman, on the record, that USAID is committed to completing the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnances within the traditional boundaries of Nagorno Karabakh. We've enclosed a transcript of the hearing for your reference. Whether or not USAID previously expected HALO Trust to complete its work by September 2019, you were clear in stating that USAID will work to completely clear Nagorno Karabakh of landmines and unexploded ordnances. Thus, we expect USAID to follow through on its commitment and provide additional funding to HALO Trust as needed to complete this critically important demining project.

Landmine clearance advances U.S. interests by promoting stability in a volatile region, while also providing critical humanitarian relief to thousands of families in Nagorno Karabakh who live in the shadow of conflict. As we stated in our last letter, in prior years there was hope that a mine-free Nagorno Karabakh would be achieved by 2020. However, it has come to our attention that this timeframe is unrealistic. For this reason, USAID's continued support is vital to achieve the complete removal of landmines from Nagorno Karabakh.

We strongly urge USAID to reconsider the decision to stop funding for humanitarian landmine clearance in Nagorno Karabakh at the end of this year. It's more important than ever that we continue to support the humanitarian demining program in the region and that you follow through on your commitment to provide additional funding to HALO Trust as needed to complete this vital project.

Sincerely,



TJ COX
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress



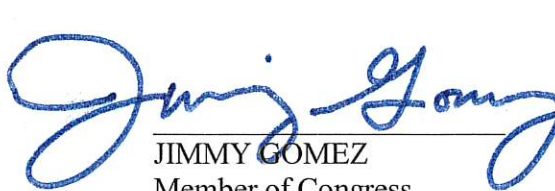
LORI TRAHAN
Member of Congress



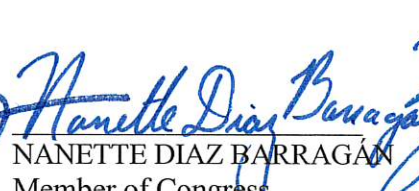
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RASHIDA TLAIB
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J. LUIS CORREA
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JASON CROW
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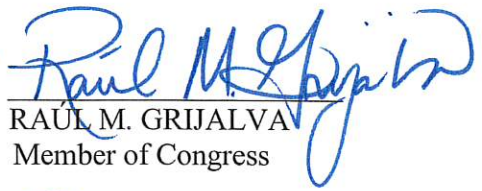
BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER
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TIM RYAN

Member of Congress




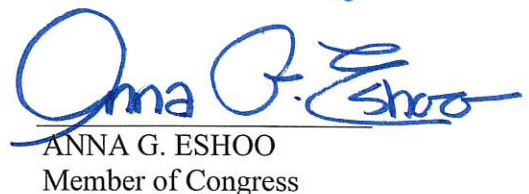
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CHRIS PAPPAS
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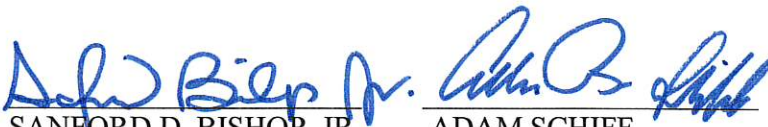
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JOSH HARDER
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JOE KENNEDY
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SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress



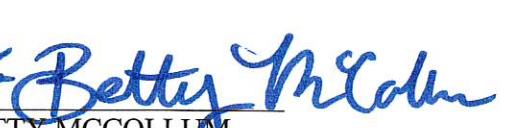
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HARLEY ROUDA
Member of Congress

MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler *Lloyd Doggett* *Julia Brownley*

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Member of Congress

LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

Albio Sires

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

Karen Bass

KAREN BASS
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Collin C. Peterson

COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell Jr.

BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis

SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland

DEB HAALAND
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross

DONALD NORCROSS
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin

JIM LANGEVIN
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Chair, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

The Honorable Hal Rogers, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

Enclosure